Ladies and Gentlemen,

We warmly invite you to attend an international conference

"Strangers in Europe and at its gates. Political, social and economic causes and consequences of migration to Europe at the beginning of the XXI century"

which will be held on November 25th-26th, 2016 in Gdynia.

I. The subject of the conference:

The term "stranger" is one of the most important concepts that appear in works of social scientists, describing processes of migration, meeting of cultures, cultures permeation, or simply matters of collective identities of ethnic groups or national minorities. Georg Simmel wrote: "If wandering is the liberation from every given point in space, and thus the conceptional opposite to fixation at such a point, the sociological form of the "stranger" presents the unity, as it were, of these two characteristics. This phenomenon too, however, reveals that spatial relations are only the condition, on the one hand, and the symbol, on the other, of human relations." Strangeness in this sense applies not only to the issue of the relationship between individuals or groups, but also becomes an important component of relations between individuals and wider community - the state. The aim of the conference is to bring the problem of strangeness in reference to the causes and effects of the largest migration wave to Europe after the Second World War which occurred at the beginning of the twenty-first century. This problem has now become an important issue both in political as well as social and economic sense. Initially, it covered especially Old Europe's countries, mainly due to their former colonial policy, but also their multidimensional attractiveness as countries to settle down. Today, as a result of unprecedented wave of refugees (mainly Muslim population from North Africa, Middle East and Afghanistan), it concerns the whole of Europe, especially the European Union countries. The migration to Europe is the subject important from both cognitive, as well as political practice point of view. As the object of cognition it is presently gaining importance when peoples and cultures mix. Watching this process has heuristic value, as it is - due to mixing of cultures not only different, but often opposite to themselves - this process laboratory in global meaning. On the other hand, the practical value of study on this issue is to diagnose the risks and opportunities inherent in this process, and thus direct them in a rational way. Therefore, we would like to invite to our conference scientists who are accustomed to these issues, as well as PhD students and students interested in these problems. We also invite practitioners who solve problems related to migration into Europe.

II. Topics can include, but are not limited to:

- 1. The concept of "stranger" in social sciences
- 2. The EU countries and societies stance on migration.
- 3. Political and legal understanding of the definitions of migration, emigration, immigration and refugee.
- 4. Migration in relation to surveillance of the EU's external borders.
- 5. Migration and terrorism.
- 6. Socio-political aspects of migration to Europe

- 7. Legal aspects of migration to Europe.
- 8. Economic aspects of migration to Europe.
- 9. Demographic aspects of migration to Europe.
- 10. The position and role of Turkey in the process of migration to Europe.
- 11. Risks and benefits of migration processes.
- 12. The impact of migration on the political situation in EU countries.

III. Information for attendees:

- 1. Applications for participation with a short abstract (on the attached card) should be submitted not later than on 30 September 2016. Applications are to be sent by post to the address of the Institute of International Relations, or by e-mail to the following address: p.baldys@amw.gdynia.pl.
- 2. Information on the receipt of the application will be sent by **15 October 2016**.
- 3. Payment of the conference fee by **30 October 2016**.
- 4. Delivery of the conference papers (electronic and printed) by 30 December 2016.
- 5. **10 January 2017** Information on the acceptance (or rejection) of the papers and submitting it for a review.

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IV. Forms of participation in the Conference:

1. Participation in the conference and publication of the paper:

400 PLN (researchers and others than PhD students and student participants)

150 PLN (PhD students and students)

The conference fee includes the collective monograph and the catering (coffee buffet and dinner). The fee does not include the cost of travel and accommodation.

<u>Note</u>: In case of cancellation of the conference participation fee is not returned. The organizers reserve the right to inspect the PhD students' and students' identity cards in order to confirm the appropriate amount of conference fee.

2. Publication of a paper without participation - 150 PLN

<u>Note</u>: The text of the papers, after a positive review and making payments, will be published in AMW's journal Colloquium. The entry fee guarantee receiving issued publication. Note: The organizers reserve the right to qualify papers for publication. For the printing of the paper authors are not paid.

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